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Shuping

PEKING ENVOY, GIVEN ASYLUM, FLIES TO U.S.

He Says Many Other Chinese Are Eager To Defect

New York, Aug. 4 (AP)—A 24-year-old former Communist Chinese diplomat arrived today to accept political asylum in the United States and said there are many other Chinese eager to defect.

"The number is not small," Tung Chi-ping said through an interpreter upon landing at Kennedy Airport on a plane from Rome.

As cultural attache at the Chinese Embassy in the new African nation of Burundi, Tung defected last May 26.

The United States State Department announced today in Washington that he was granted asylum yesterday when he renewed his request at the United States Embassy in Rome.

State Department Mum

Tung left the United States embassy in Burundi last week, but the State Department would not discuss how he got to Rome.

Tung said only that he was helped out of Burundi by friends, but would not give any details because he didn't want any harm to come to them.

He was greeted at the airport by Chao Mu, 29, the only previous known Communist Chinese Government employee who defected to the United States. Chao left the Chinese Embassy in Stockholm, where he was a code clerk, in 1963 and now lives and works at a factory in Middletown, N.Y.

Tung said he first became anti-Communist in 1958 when the Chinese Reds started their "backyard furnace campaign" — an effort at grass root industrialization.

Disillusioned With Reds

A slender, bespectacled man, dressed in a neat grey suit and wearing a grey tie, Tung talked to reporters through an interpreter for about an hour.

"I hope my future work," he said, "will be directed to the anti-Communist cause."

"There was someone who helped me who has helped you," he continued. "You know who that is: that man is God."

He later said that he did not profess any specific religion.

His disillusionment with the Communist regime started in 1957, he said, when he discovered that the regime rejected suggestions from his teachers and other intellectuals on how to improve education.

"Many of the teachers were sent to labor camps where they are still alive today," he said. "This affected my young heart very much and I became disillusioned."

He said the main result of the "backyard furnace campaign" was "to turn potentially useful material into useless iron."

Students were shunted from classes to help the industrialization campaign, he said, and "were very sad because the lives of the young people were being wasted."

He added that the students were "extremely sad because the Chinese Communists were trying to make the young people fanatics and destroy whatever their ancestors had done."

Tung said he spent four years at the Shanghai Foreign Language Institute, starting in 1959, and that "like all the other students, suffered hunger."

The 1,500 students go only 36 pounds of vegetables a day, he said, and wouldn't have had that much if the regime hadn't feared that a hunger revolt would have created "an international sensation."

"If I learned anything during those four years," Tung said, "it was the true face of the Chinese Communists — that they brought tremendous disaster to the Chinese people."

"Hypocrisy" Noted

After assignment to the Commission for Cultural Relations he said he saw the regime's "insincerity and hypocrisy" even in dealings with friendly countries.

But, he said, he tried to appear "very progressive" because he knew he would be sent abroad.

When he defected in Burundi, the Chinese reported that he had been kidnaped by Americans, he said.

"I do not regret the steps I have taken and I'm not even angry about the Chinese accusations," Tung stated.